

breach the security of the United States Capitol by even a few more feet, more would surely have died. Both officers have died in the service of their country, keeping the Capitol secure, so that Members, their staff, and the hundreds of thousands of Americans visiting the "People's House" might live.

I do not want fear or unreason to take hold amidst cries to turn our Capitol into a fortress. There is talk of beefing up security in the aftermath—a review that would have taken place after any violent event in and around the Capitol. I assure you this will not pass us by, but will grow into something positive in the way of added security.

But we must carry on and let nothing stand in the way of the public's access to their Capitol or their representatives. To do otherwise would be to somehow diminish the supreme sacrifice made by these two brave officers. Instead, let us grieve along with the families, and offer them our strength and the comfort of our prayers to see them through the days ahead, by remembering the bravery of the men they lost—men who were husbands, fathers, grandfathers, sons, uncles, friends and above all, protectors of the public trust.

There is a Poem—one that is very fitting—about fallen heroes, entitled: "A Part of America Died Today," and its author is unknown to me. But I reprint it here in tribute to Officer J.J. Chestnut and Special Agent John Gibson:

Somebody killed a policeman today, and a part of America died.

A piece of our country he swore to protect will be buried with him at his side.

The suspect who shot him will stand up in court,

with counsel demanding his rights.

While a widowed mother must comfort her kids

and spend alone many long nights.

The beat that he walked was a battlefield, too.

Just as if he had gone off to war.

The flag of our nation does fly at half-mast.

To his name, they will add a gold star.

Yes, somebody killed a policeman today.

A cop put his life on the line.

Now his ghost walks a beat on a dark city street,

and he stands at each new rookie's side.

He answered the call and gave us his all, and a part of America died.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself, my staff, and the people of the 3rd District of West Virginia, I extend our deep sympathy, our prayers, and our thanks to the families of these two fallen heroes, Officer J.J. Chestnut, and Special Agent John Gibson, placing them in the comforting arms of God, asking His blessings upon them.

IN TRIBUTE

(Mrs. MORELLA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to two heroes, Private First Class Jacob Joseph Chestnut and Detective John Michael Gibson of the U.S. Capitol Police, who sacrificed their lives not only for those of us in Congress and for the staff and for the tourists, but for all of the American people.

J.J. Chestnut guarded the main entrance. John Gibson was assigned to

Majority Whip TOM DELAY. Both were veterans of the force, took their responsibilities seriously, so much so that in saving the lives of others, they lost their own.

We take this safety for granted. Who could ever imagine a shooting in the Nation's Capitol, the shrine of liberty and justice to all? Who could ever imagine the death of two officers because of that shooting?

We shall miss these men who guided us, who cheered us, who cared for us, who asked us about our families and we inquired about theirs, who shared their interests, always there, alert and responsive. We will miss them, yes, but they leave behind them their wives without husbands, their children without fathers, the Capitol Police without two colleagues.

We offer our condolences to Officer Chestnut's widow Wen Ling and his five children, Joseph, Janece, Janet, Karen and William; and to Detective Gibson's widow Evelyn and his three children, Kristen, John and Daniel. Those of us who are Americans, who are part of the Capitol Hill family, are in mourning over the senseless loss of these two fine men, all across Washington and across the Nation.

I want to close with a quote from Thornton Wilder who said, "There is the land of the living and the land of the dead, and the bridge is love, the only survival and the only meaning." This is the love that they leave behind and this is the love we give to them and to their families.

IN TRIBUTE

(Mr. CASTLE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself, my staff and the people of Delaware, I want to extend my deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Detective Gibson and Officer Chestnut. I also want Congressman DELAY and his staff as well as the visitors to the Capitol who witnessed this tragedy to know that they are in our thoughts today.

Detective Gibson and Officer Chestnut were heroes who gave their lives protecting the United States Capitol and those who work here and visit this great building. Words are not able to convey the thanks and respect we owe these two men.

I also want to pay tribute to the other Members of the Capitol Hill Police who responded to this terrible tragedy. They too are heroes. Fortunately, they did not have to pay the price that Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson did, but their commitment to their duty and the safety of others was clearly demonstrated on that fateful day.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to thank the members of the Capitol Hill Police Force and our law enforcement officers across the Nation for the service they provide to the people of the United

States. Unfortunately, I have attended services like this one today for fallen officers in Delaware. They are never easy but they do remind us of the absolute dedication that every law enforcement officer brings to the job and the very real risk they take every day.

Mr. Speaker, our thanks and prayers go to Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson. We will always remember them. In their memory, we also thank all the men and women in law enforcement who share the commitment that these two heroes exemplified. Finally, I want to say to the families of John Gibson and J.J. Chestnut, thank you for giving us these two men. We are eternally grateful, and you will remain in our thoughts and prayers.

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PROFOUND SYMPATHIES FROM NEW JERSEY'S 11TH DISTRICT

(Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, in this hallowed Chamber we are often separated by differences in policy and politics, but today we stand together as a family, bound in honor of two men who will always be remembered in this Chamber and in this Nation as heroes.

While the horror of Friday's events will be blurred sadly by still other tragedies and the passage of time, the bravery and devotion to duty of Capitol Hill Police Officers John Gibson and Jacob Chestnut will become as lasting as the very democracy contained within these walls. We will not forget them.

This Capitol, the People's House, is honored by the service of each of our Capitol Police Officers, and to all of them today I offer praise and gratitude. By these two fallen heroes the People's House is venerated more so than the presence of any one of us here who have meant liberty, for Officers Gibson and Chestnut surrendered theirs in protection of ours.

To the Gibson and Chestnut families, on behalf of New Jersey's 11th Congressional District, my deepest, most profound sympathies go to them. They should know we share their grief and we also share their tremendous pride of these two men who have given their lives in the preservation of the sanctity of our Nation's Capitol.

PRAYERS FROM THE PEOPLE OF BROOKLYN AND STATEN ISLAND

(Mr. FOSSELLA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I come here today with my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to offer my condolences and prayers to the families of Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson. Just on the way over here I was talking to some retired Capitol Hill Police, one of whom trained Detective Gibson. And

I guess, in a nutshell, he said, "It could have been one of us," and I guess that really characterizes the mood around here these days: It could have been anybody. But it was two heroes who fell for their country, who fell protecting others without hesitation, without question.

And, Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I did not only offer my prayers from my family and the people of Brooklyn and Staten Island to those of the families of Mr. Chestnut and Mr. Gibson, if I did not mention that, right now, there is a young police officer back home in Staten Island who was shot in the head 2 days ago by a 17-year-old boy, this boy who had killed somebody at the age of 15. So I say that as an example in reflection of that dedication of the Capitol Hill Police and police officers around this country who stand in defense of freedom every single day to protect the innocent, to protect us. And while we pray for the families of Mr. Gibson and Mr. Chestnut, may we also pray for Mr. Carter and hope that he recovers and that in Staten Island we have him back protecting us as well.

PROFOUND CONDOLENCES FROM THE 4TH DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

(Mrs. FOWLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. FOWLER. Mr. Speaker, last Friday a terrible and devastating incident occurred here in the Capitol of our Nation. Inside this glistening white marble building one person changed the lives of two families forever and held a Nation captive as we prayed for the lives of two dedicated police officers who have protected us without as much as a second thought.

In our daily rush we may sometimes forget that the officers we see throughout the buildings are there ready to make the personal sacrifices their duty requires. Staff members sometimes feel frustrated if they are stopped by an officer as they give tours, and interns are sometimes flustered if asked for identification. It is so easy to forget that these officers are trying to protect us despite ourselves.

Winston Churchill once said: "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."

The recent events bring their duty into clearer focus and force us to realize that, despite our occasional complacency, these officers must be prepared every day to face danger. Last Friday, in little more than a heartbeat, a delusional person was able to cowardly snuff out the life of a dedicated and professional officer. Jacob Chestnut was, however, much more than just a police officer. He was a good husband and father, and he was a caring member of his community and church.

Unfortunately, he was not alone. Officer John Gibson had three children and made time in his life for many others. He was the kind of person who was

willing to dress up as Santa Claus to thrill children at Christmas. As a deputy whip to majority whip TOM DELAY, I came to know John Gibson as a man assigned to protect the majority whip. Many days I would go in the side entrance to the office, and Detective Gibson would be there with his reassuring presence and smile. We all came to know and care for Officer John Gibson.

Despite the tragic turn of events on Friday it is my personal belief that the police security worked. The intruder was stopped before he was able to roam freely throughout the U.S. Capitol Building killing innocent civilians. I am proud of Officers Gibson and Chestnut. I am also proud of all the other officers on duty that day for their quick and professional response in bringing down the alleged killer, helping their fallen comrades and managing the hundreds of people who were either working or touring in the Capitol.

I would also like to express my own profound condolences as well as those of the people of the 4th District of Florida to the families of Officer Jacob Chestnut and Officer John Gibson. May God bless them.

HOW CAN WE HELP?

(Mr. HOUGHTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, so many people have talked so eloquently about these two brave men that I am not going to try to do that. However, in less than an hour and a half we will be having this service in the Rotunda which the President, the Vice President, the members of the Cabinet and Senate and the House are going to be paying their final respects to these two courageous, courageous men. But I guess I ask myself how can we help? What goes on afterwards?

We have had 2 days of mourning. There will be other mournings that go on. But sooner or later those families are going to be on their own, and they are going to need our help, and I hope we can be of help to them whether it is through any contributions we can make to funds, whether it is some help to their children, whether it is in a variety of different ways. I think those are the times when we will be needed.

Also, I would like to feel that we can do what is needed to be done for the Capitol Police in terms of buttressing them and making sure that they have the proper protective equipment.

Another thing I think is that there are a great many people out there who were not in Washington but have the same types of functions, and these people need our protection and our help. I know in my communities and the district in which I live similar people are exposed daily to the type of dangers that these two brave officers were.

And also I think that there are a variety of people who are not in self service but are in service to this country,

whether it is in the military or judiciary or a whole variety of things that really we should be aware of and sensitive to the conditions under which they work.

OFFICER J.J. CHESTNUT AND DETECTIVE JOHN GIBSON MADE A DIFFERENCE

(Mr. CUNNINGHAM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, President Ronald Reagan in his inaugural address talked about a man named Martin Treptoe. Martin Treptoe, like J.J. Chestnut, John Gibson, had not ever been heard of by America before that time, but Martin Treptoe was a baker. During World War I, when it was raging, he volunteered to go to the front. He became a message carrier. He got to the front, and three other message carriers had been killed, but yet Martin Treptoe volunteered again. And like the other three, they found Martin Treptoe dead about halfway to the front, and they found his message pouch, and I would like to quote from that pouch. It says:

"This is a very difficult war. I don't think I will survive. But I must treat every action as if that action determined the outcome of this conflict."

Both J.J. Chestnut and John Gibson treated every one of their actions as if the outcome made a difference for the Members of Congress and the safety of the public. We honor those two individuals today. May God bless.

TRIBUTE TO OFFICER J.J. CHESTNUT AND DETECTIVE JOHN GIBSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to Officers J.J. Chestnut and John Gibson, and I hope something that has been said over these last 2 days will continue to help and comfort those who mourn.

President John F. Kennedy once remarked: "A man does what he must in spite of personal consequences, in spite of obstacles and dangers and pressures, and that is the basis of all human morality." Officers J.J. Chestnut and John Gibson truly upheld this lofty standard.

And I also thank all other Capitol Hill Police Officers and all law enforcement officers throughout this Nation who protect us.

As responsible defenders of our country, these two slain officers protected our citizens from mortal danger, and it cost them their very lives. But they protected more than the people around them. Officers Chestnut and Gibson protected the very core of our American society and our belief in the preservation of life and democracy.